# ESSAYES AND CHARACTERS OF A *PRISON* AND PRISONERS.

Written by G. *M.* of *Grayes-Inne* Gent.

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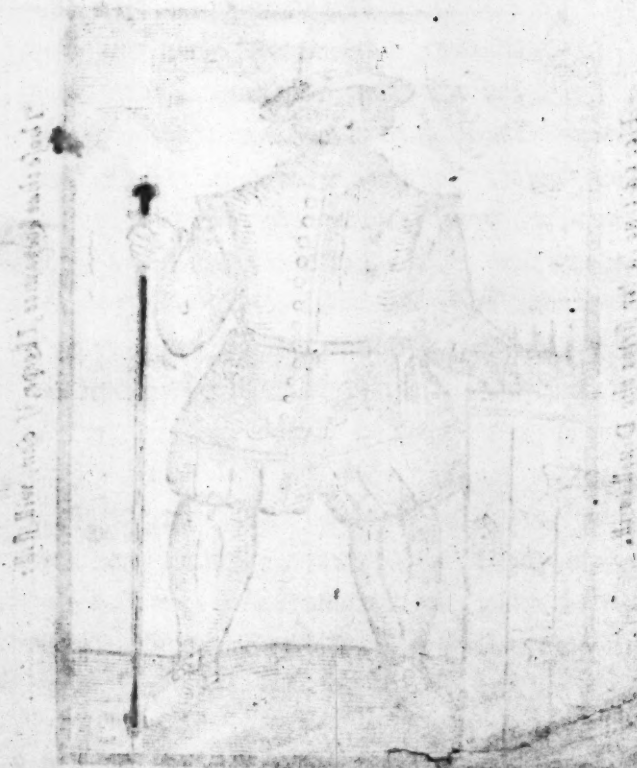

# TO THE MOST WORTHY

young Gentlemen (my noble Viſitants)
of Grayes-Inne.

*Worthy Friends, (and nobleſt Society of Gentlemen) do not think that with* Pigmalion, *I am inamoured with my owne Peice, in that once more I waſh ouer the Picture which was drawne but the Tearme going before: for neither the colours laid on then nor theſe now, are worthy to bee preferred to eyes ſo iudicious, as yours are; I come now not to re-ſing, but to re-cant the errours both of my pen and iudgment, ſo raſhly to thruſt my ſelfe into a Printers preſſe, though againſt my will:* Ad prælum quaſi ad prælium. *I vndertooke a warre when I aduentured to ſpeake in print, (not in print as Puritans Ruffes are ſet) but to haue the Criticall fingers of euery mewing cenſure to fillip mee as I lye on a Stationers ſtall: for ten thouſand Bullets haue bene ſpitefully ſhot at me for that one poore paper Bullet of which I ſhot vp and downe Fleeteſtreet. Carpes haue bin good cheap this Lent, for I haue had more then I deſired for nothing, ſome being ſent from the table of Iaylors,*

who hauing no great appetite, (though inſatiable mawes of themſelues) to other meates, did their beſt to whet their ſtomackes vpon me, but they ſhall ſooner finde me to be a choak-Peare in going downe, then a Gudgeon, eaſily to be deuoured, eſpecially by their ſore throats. Such teeth may bite me but ſhal not draw blood of me. I make an Apologie to none but to you, (moſt worthy to bee by me reſpected) what others thinke I care not, ſo you taxe not my weaknes; ſigne you my pardon, and I weigh not who elſe condemnes me. I haue now put my name to my Book, (without tergeuerſation or turne coating the letters) not that I feared to dare ſo much before, but my loue ayming onely to hit your fauors. I know my meaning could not lye hidden to you, for your ſakes eſpecially (noble Friends) who haue beene louing Viſitants to me in this inchanted Caſtle, where I lye bound with Sorcerers Charmes, before did, and I doe now with whole Miriads of thanks, ſend theſe Papers full of my loue, in retribution of your ſingular expreſſion beſtowed vpon me. And ſo not doubting of a continuation of your good thoughts towards me, I commend my ſelfe not onely to you whoſe perſonall embracements, haue added heate to my affection, but to all the reſt of my fellow Students incorporated into your moſt worthy Society.

From the Kings Bench Priſon in Southwark this 6. of Iune, Anno Dom. 1618.

Yours in the higheſt degree of Friendſhip to bee commanded.

G. M.

# TO HIS MOST LOVING *AND EVER RESPECTIVE KIND* Vncle, Mr. MATHEVV MAINVVARING of *Namptwich in Chesshire.*

SInce my comming into this Priſon, what with the ſtrangeneſſe of the place, and ſtrictneſſe of my Liberty, I am ſo tranſported that I could not follow that ſtudy wherein I tooke great delight and cheiſe pleaſure, and to ſpend my time idley would but adde more diſcontentments to my troubled breſt, and being in this *Chaos* of diſcontentments, fantaſies muſt ariſe, which will bring forth the fruits of an idle braine, for *è malis minimum.* It is farre better to giue ſome accompt of time, though to little purpoſe then none at all. To which end I gathered a handfull of Eſſayes, and few Characters of ſuch things as by my owne experience I could ſay, *Probatum eſt*: not that thereby I ſhould either pleaſe the Reader, or ſhew exquiſitenes of inuention, or curious ſtile; ſeeing what I write of is but the Child of ſorrow, bred by diſcontentments, and nouriſht vp with misfortunes, to whoſe help melancholly *Saturne* gaue his Iudgement, the night-bird her inuention, and the ominous *Rauen* brought a quill taken from his owne wing, dipt in the Inke of miſery, as chiefe ayders in this Architect of ſorrow.

This Child is borne and brought to the Font, all things ready, onely there wants a Patron. *Hoc difficilimum eſt*: For who will defend ſorrow and miſery? Who wil giue him entertainment? Who wil countenance this worke the Author being miſerable? Who will reſpect the matter, the Man being an abiect? who will cheriſh the Circumſtance when the ſubſtance is almoſt periſhed? Surely *non in his diebus*, for friendſhip is baniſhed, loue extinguiſhed, naturall affection gone to trauell, gold is dearer then a friend, treaſure is nearer then a Kinſman, and Mammon better beloued then a Sonne. Yet in this famine of true friends I will venter vpon you (moſt louing Vncle) as a God-father to this my firſt borne, though in miſery. I can haue but a denyall, which if you doe, it muſt dye in oblivion. But why ſhould I feare, ſince you haue alwayes beene my Anchor when I haue beene Ship-wrackt, and many times ſaued my poore Barque when it was ready to ſplit? Why then ſhould I doubt of your friendly Patronage, which haue neuer fayled me? Be bold then and goe thy way, thou ſhalt bee entertained, though not for any worth which is in thee, yet in reſpect thou doſt but ſhow a willing heart, and doſt indeauour to expell ingratitude, a thing moſt odious not onely to man but God, not to Chriſtians but Heathens, not to Heathens but Beaſts.

What then ſhould I giue to you for all your kindneſſes which you haue continually beſtowed vpon mee, which are ſo many that if I ſhould endeauour to recite (*Ante diem clauſo componet veſper Olympo,*)

but

but to ſhew my willingnes to my power though I am not able to requite, (for *vltra poſſe non eſt eſſe*) doe offer vp vnto the Oracle of your loue the ſacrifice of a louing heart, hoping that what is amiſſe you will impute it to the ſlendernes of my iudgement, and the dulnes of my braine, which this place hath made worſe (and not to the leaſt defect of good will) & that you would let none but your ſelfe ſee my imperfections, which are ſufficiently diuulged by mine owne actions, & would bee vnwilling to haue a ſecond edition of them by my writing. This was the cheefeſt cauſe I tooke this in hand; another was becauſe that happily ſome friend of mine (*poſt mea funera*) by accident may find this paper and read them, and by my example, ſay; *Fælix ſum, quem pericula huius Authoris faciunt me cautum*, for *qui ante non cauet poſt dolebit*, & that they may be afraid to enter into debt any farther then neceſſity vrgeth, and if they bee forced to borrow, to pay as ſoone as they can, (for Vſury and Extortion bite deepe, and credit once crackt is not eaſily recouered, nor all Creditors of one mind, for ſome will in pitty forbeare, and others will ſhew the greateſt ſeuerity. So hoping you will accept *non donum ſed animum*, I reſt this 27. of *Ianuary Anno.* 1617.

From the Kings-Bench Priſon in *Southwarke.*

*Your euer-loving Nephew.*

GEFFRAY MYNSHVL.

# TO THE COVRTEOVS READER.

*Courteous Reader, only to baniſh melancholly, and to wade through tedious time, tedious in reſpect of this place, I gathered a few Eſſayes and Characters, with an intent not to haue them ſeene of any, but to him to whom they were ſent, being one that I might truely ground a certainty of, who would excuſe my imperfections, and iudge charitably of my ſlenderneſſe of iudgement: this Coppy by accident came to ſome of my friends hands, who hauing peruſed it, wiſhed me to put it in Print, which I altogether refuſed, becauſe I would not preſume of my owne Iudgement, or dare to venter to put my ſelfe to the cenſure of ſo many vnderſtanding Readers, into whoſe hands it is ſubiect to fall. Theſe perſwaſions preuailed not intreaties were laid aſide, and I muſt either diuulge them, or elſe looſe their loue: This was the firſt motiue that with an vnwilling willingneſſe, cauſed me to put my Booke to cenſure: Another was in reſpect ſome obdurate Creditors may read it, & by reading molliſie their ſtrong hearts: The laſt reaſon, becauſe it may bee as a Caueat to young gallants, to terrifie them how they run in debt, wherein they may know that impriſonment is of all miſeries moſt lamentable.*

*So hoping that the iudicious will with fauourable cenſure mitigate my many imperfections, and the other iudge fauourably of my intention, which if it take well, is better then I can expect, if otherwiſe they doe not iniury me in giuing deſert his reward.*

ESSAYES

# ESSAYES OF A PRISON.

TO what end or purpoſe ſhould I intreat helpe of the Muſes, for the aide of inuention; or *Cicero*, to adorne my phraſe with eloquence; or *Horaces* deepe iudgment, to write iudiciouſly; or implore ayde of *Martial*, to ſpeake myſtically; or *Virgils* heroicke ſtile, to pleaſe the hearers, ſince what I write is nothing but of ſorrow; the ſubiect but diſcontentment, and the whole matter but an Index of many miſeries: and therefore my phraſe ſhall be altogether vnpoliſhed, being the ſeruant of my more dull apprehenſion.

*Vade, ſed incultus, qualem decet exulis eſſe,*
*Infœlix habitum temporis huius habe.*

My purpoſe is, with dim water-colours to line me out a heart, yea ſuch a heart, ſo diſcontented and oppreſſed, that I need not be curious in fitting euery colour to his place, or to chuſe the pleaſanteſt chamber to draw it in, becauſe in it I am to lay downe the

bounds of thoſe tempeſtuous Seas, in which tenne thouſands are euery day toſſed, if not ouerwhelmed, which is ſo vſuall here amongſt vs, that euery one is Arts maſter in this workmanſhip, and euery minute ſomething or other is ſtill added to this diſtreſſed Picture, whoſe ponderous waight is ſo great, that the frame is ſcarce able to beare the *effigies*.

My trauels hither to this infernall Iland hath been but a ſhort voyage, and my abode here as yet but few Moneths, but it ſeemes longer to mee then an Eaſt-Indian voyage, and I am ſure farre more dangerous: for if from the Indies of ſixty men twenty come home ſafe it is well; but in this, if eighty of an hundred be not caſt ouer board it is a wonder.

*Loci incommoditas.*

Being once arriued, no ſtarre of comfort here can be ſeene to ſayle by, no hauen of happineſſe neare, no anchor of hope to caſt out, Top-ſayle, Fore-ſayle, Sprit-ſaile, Mizen, Maine, Sheate, Bollings and Drablers are all torne by the windes, and the Barke it ſelfe ſo weather-beaten, that there is few can come neare to touch at the Cape of *Bona Speranza*.

Being once arriued at, all are not onely ſtaid, but the inchantments are ſo ſtrong, that it transformeth all that come thither. Firſt, the greateſt courages are here wracked, the faireſt reuenues doe here come aground; it maketh a wiſe man to loſe his wits, a foole to know himſelfe, it turnes a rich man into a begger, and leaues a poore man deſperate; he whom neyther Snowes nor Alpes can vanquiſh, but hath a heart as conſtant a *Hannibal*, him can the miſeries of a Priſon ouercome.

## *The Character of a Priſon.*

A Priſon is a graue to bury men aliue, and a place wherein a man for halfe a yeares experience may learne more law, then hee can at *Weſtminſter* for an hundred pound.

It is a *Microcoſmus*, a little world of woe, it is a map of miſery, it is a place that will learne a young man more villany, if he be apt to take it, in one halfe yeare, then he can learne at twenty dicing-houſes, bowling-allies, Brothell-houſes or Ordinaries; and an old man more policie then if he had been Pupill to *Machiauel*.

It is a place that hath more diſeaſes predominant in it, then the Peſt-houſe in the Plague-time, and it ſtinkes more then the Lord Mayors Dogge-houſe or Paris-garden in Auguſt.

It is a little common-wealth, although little wealth be common there; it is a deſart where deſert lyes hood-winckt; it is a famous Citie wherein are all Trades, for here lies the Alchymiſt that can rather make *ex auro non aurum*, then *ex non auro aurum*.

It is as intricate a place as *Roſamonds* Labyrinth, and is as full of blinde Meanders, and crooked turnings that it is vnpoſſible to finde the way out, except he be directed by a ſiluer Clue, and can neuer ouercome the *Minotaure* without a golden ball to worke his owne ſafety.

It is as Innes of Court: for herein Lawyers inhabit, that haue crochets to free other men, yet all their quirks and quiddities cannot enfranchize themſelues.

It is the Doctors-Commons, where skilfull Physitians frequent, who like *Æsculapius* can cure other mens diseases, yet cannot Quintessence out of all their Vegetals and Minerals, a Balsamum or Elyxir to make a soueraigne plaister to heale the surfet the Mace hath giuen them.

It is the Chyrurgions-Hall, where many rare Artists liue, that can search other mens wounds, yet cannot heale the wound the Serjeant hath giuen them.

It is your Bankrupts banquetting-house, where he sits feasting with the sweet meates borrowed from other mens tables, hauing a voluntary disposition neuer to repay them againe.

It is your Prodigals *Vltimum refugium*, wherein he may see himselfe as in a glasse what his excesse hath brought him to; and lest he should surfet, comes hither to physicke himselfe with moderate dyet, and least that his bed of Downe should breed too many diseases, comes hither to change his bed, where he is scarce able to lye downe.

It is a Purgatory which doth afflict a man with more miseries then euer he reaped pleasures.

It is a Pilgrimage to extenuate sinnes, and absolue offences: for here be Seminaries and Masse-Priests, which doe take downe the pride of their flesh more, then a voyage to the Holy Land, or a hayre shirt in Lent.

It is an exile which doth banish a man from all contentments, wherein his actions doe so terrifie him, that it makes a man grow desperate.

To conclude, what is it not? In a word, it is the very

very Idea of all miſery and torments, it conuerts ioy into ſorrow, riches into pouertie, and eaſe into diſcontentments.

## *Of Priſoners.*

I Could wiſh that euery one that comes to Priſon, ſhould not be diſmayed, but carry it out brauely and with reſolution, and to conſider that no miſery in this world is endleſſe. After ſtormes calmes will ariſe, and though ſorrow be ouer night, yet ioy will come in the morning, and to ſay as *Cæſar* did to the Pilot that carryed him when hee was afraid, quoth he, *Thou carriëſt Cæſar*: So euery generous minde ought to be arm'd with reſolution to meete all ſtormes of aduerſitie, and to conſider that man was borne to miſery, and therefore naturall to him. *Omnis homo miſer.*

But thou wilt peraduenture ſay, the name of a priſoner is loathſome to thee. Is it becauſe thou art cooped vnder locke and key? Is it becauſe thou feeleſt wants? Is it becauſe thou art barred of freedome? Is it becauſe thy friends looke ſtrangely on thee or forſake thee? Is it becauſe thou art diſgraced and holden in ſcorne? Is it becauſe thou lodgeſt hardly, and peraduenture with an ill bed-fellow? Yet let not all theſe diſmay thee, for hadſt thou the whole Country to walke in, yet thy ſoule is ſtill impriſoned in thy corrupted body. Let not want diſcourage thee, for thy Redeemer ſuffered hunger and colde to fulfill thy wants. Let not want of freedome trouble thee, thy Sauiour was fettered and manacled to enfranchiſe thee.

Let not the coy lookes of thy friends diſmay thee, thy Lord was ſcorned of all men to bring thee into fauour. Let not diſgraces moleſt thee, the King of Kings was moſt diſgraced to honor thee. Let not thy lodging or forced Chamber-fellowes afflict thee, the *Pilot* of thy ſafety was lodged in a *Manger*, and made a companion for theeues. But looke into thy owne boſome, and learne but a ſhort rule, yet very difficult: viz. (*Noſce teipſum*) and thou ſhalt find that it is not impriſonment that afflicts thee, but the euill which is in thy ſelfe, makes thee ſo diſtaſtfull, for hadſt thou all things at will, yet ſtill thou wouldſt wiſh for more. The greateſt Monarch liues not without ſome diſcontentment, and comfort thy ſelfe that one day thou ſhalt be enfranchiſed and goe to that place and Manſion houſe which is prepared for thee, where all ſcores ſhall be paid, all cares baniſhed and all teares wiped away.

*Noſce teipſum.*

*Nemo viuit contentus.*

Varlets and Catchpoles arreſt thee, fret not at it, if law haue power to whet an axe, ſhe muſt pick out a hangman to ſtrike the mace, this doth but onely put thee in remembrance of that arreſt which ſhall ſummon thee to appeare at the Imperial court of heauen.

Thy actions are many and great which are againſt thee, yea ſome of you come to a tormenting execution, grieue not at this, it doth but teach thee that thy accounts muſt be brought againſt thee, to draw thee to a reckoning, to make thee know that thou oweſt a reckoning to Heauen as well as to man, and Iuſtice will execute her power, not to driue thee to deſpaire but to amendement.

*Redde rationem.*

Further

Further I perſwade my ſelfe there are many Priſoners whoſe reſolutions are ſo noble, that before they would yeeld to the threats of an inſulting creditour, they would cheerefully thruſt their neckes into the yoke of aduerſity, if no more veynes herein were cut but their owne; but here is none ſo poore which dyes in priſon, but the laſt gaſpe doth cracke the heart-ſtrings of a wife, children, father, mother, friends or allies, therefore art thou bound to take pitty of thy ſelfe, and to hang out the Flag of truce to thy bloody minded creditor, and ſeeke for ranſome to pay all, ſo that thou maiſt eſcape with life, though it be vpon ſome ignoble termes, and much loſſe to thee, if none of theſe reſpects, yet for thy Countries ſake, to whom thou art a Traytor if thou giue thy ſelfe to thine enemies hand when vpon parley thy peace may be made, come forth of Priſon, and dye not there, that thou mayſt honour thy King, and doe ſeruice to thy Countrey, and pay thy debts ſo farre as thou art able, becauſe the greateſt debt that euer thou didſt owe was paid for thee.

*Parentes & Liberi ſunt chari.*

*Non nobis ſed Patriæ.*

### *Priſoners of another nature.*

SOme there bee which haue gotten other mens goods, and ſo lye heere to defraud them, theſe of all men deſerue no pitty or compaſſion, which tye their owne hands, and make themſelues gally-ſlaues, onely to weare golden fetters: how canſt thou ſay thy prayers and expect a bleſſing ſhould bee poured on thee, that ſo willingly erreſt from the type of a iuſt man,

Bankrupts.

*Fac alijs fieri quod velis ipſe tibi.*

man, which is, *(Suum cuique attribuere.)* I will not ſpeake much of thee becauſe it muſt be all gall: Onely this in hope to amend thee, the gallowes on which the poore Theefe hangeth is moſt fit for thee: hee robbeth one man, thou whole families: he is a Felon to man onely, thou art a Felon to God and man: if he kill, he doth it ſodainely, and but one, when thou with a lingring death deſtroyeſt father, mother, children, and peraduenture many Orphans left to their charge. But looke to it, that although thou compound for two ſhillings or three ſhillings in the pound, the ouerplus which thou ſo ill haſt got, will bring thy ſoule into ſuch debt, that the remainder wil not pay the intereſt to ſaue the forfeiture of thy ſoule to the Diuell, which will damne thee and thy angells with him and his angels; and thy iſſue or allies which ſhall enioy them ſhall neuer proſper with them.

*Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non meliores.*

*Bona male parta, male dilabuntur.*

## *The Character of a Priſoner.*

A Priſoner is an impatient Patient, lingring vnder the rough hands of a cruell Phiſitian, his creditor hauing caſt his water knowes his diſeaſe, and hath power to cure him, but takes more pleaſure to kill him. He is like *Tantalus*, who hath freedome running by his doore yet cannot enioy the leaſt benefit thereof, his greateſt griefe is, that his credit was ſo good and now no better: his land is drawne within the compaſſe of a ſheepes skin, and his owne hand the fortification that barres him of entrance: hee is fortunes toſſing-bal, an obiect that would make mirth melancholy

melancholly: to his friends an abiect, and a ſubiect of nine dayes wonder in euery Barbers ſhop; and a mouthfull of pitty (that he had no better fortune) to Midwiues and talkatiue Goſſips; and all the content that this tranſitory life can giue him, ſeemes but to flout him, in reſpect the reſtraint of liberty barres the true vſe. To his familiars hee is like a plague, whom they dare ſcarce come nigh for feare of infection, he is a monument ruined by thoſe which rayſed him, hee ſpends the day with a *hei mihi, ve miſerum*, and the night with a *Nullis eſt medicabilis herbis.*

## *Of Creditors.*

A *Creditor* hath two paire of hands, one of fleſh and blood, and that nature gaue him; another of Iron, and that the law giues him: but the one is more predominant then the other, for mercy guids the one, and mammon the other. But if hee once conſider what hee goeth about to doe, and that it is the Image of God whom he laboureth to deface and oppreſſe with miſeries and calamities: then the ſoftneſſe of the one doth ſo operate that it meets with the hardnes of the other, which neuer comes to paſſe but when grace and mercy kiſſe Law and Iuſtice, but ſuch dayes are ſeldome ſet downe in our Calenders, but I perſwade my ſelfe that for a ſtrange Meridian is that Almanacke calculated in which they are found.

*Deus fecit hominem ſecundum imaginem ſuam.*

I by mine owne experience (though little, yet too much,

much to learne it heere) haue knowne of my owne knowledge a hundred Creditors which haue laid their Debtors in Irons, as relentleſſe as themſelues, and of thoſe hundred, if I ſhould adde a hundred more, I thinke I ſhould nominate but one onely, and onely one of a merciſull breſt, who did not onely grieue to ſee his Debtor oppreſt with miſery, but alſo laid money out of his purſe to free him, he ſhot a ſecond arrow to find the firſt, and ſuppoſe he ſhot both away, doe you think his quiuer was the emptier? No, he ſcattered a handfull of corne, and reaped a buſhell, hee receiued treble intereſt, he gained by this new ſecurity, and ſuch as would not faile him at the day, God became his Debtor, and paid him more then his accompt came to.

*Ironia.* Thou that art a Creditor wilt not beleeue this: doe not. But in ſtead of this mans weeping make thy debtor melt into teares, and in ſtead of his lamentation, reioyce hee is in thy hands to vſe him cruelly, and flatter thy ſelfe in ſaying thou haſt no reaſon to looſe ſo much by him, but I will haue his body, or in perſwading thy ſelfe that his friends will not let him lye for ſuch a debt, and that thou wilt not forgiue him, but *nolens volens* wilt bee ſatisfied, or elſe he ſhall ſtarue and rot: O thou wicked man, thou neuer doſt conſider what teares thy Sauiour ſhed to free thee, and when thou waſt giuen vp to the priſon of Hell, by the hands of thy cruell Creditor the Diuell to bee cruelly tormented, yet Chriſt paid all thy ſcores with his moſt precious blood, and how canſt thou lye downe on thy pillow, to pray to God to

*Homo homini lupus.*

forgiue

forgiue thee a million of debts, nay they run into *infinitum*, which will not forgiue thy brother one debt. And when all thy friends would not redeeme thee, thy Sauiour freed thee, how canſt thou do theſe things with a ſafe conſcience? Doſt thou not ſleepe on the pillow of thy owne damnation, thy prayers turne into curſings, and thou doſt but mocke him that thou prayeſt to.

Conſider what a great ſcoare thou art to pay, what an accompt thou art to make, and how thou ſhalt not eſcape if thou vſe ſuch cruelty till thou haſt paid the vttermoſt farthing, thou that art a cruell murtherer, whom the reuenge and wrongs of a wife, children, Parents, and orphans, will like the blood of *Abell* call to heauen for vengeance on thee and thy poſterity: doe but conſider of this, and then thou wilt be affraid to torment thy brother. But imitate the Romanes, who rather builded a temple for the reliefe of thoſe which were fallen into decay and pouerty, then find a Priſon to ſtarue them in, and follow *Titus Veſpatian*, who hauing omitted but one day to doe iuſtice, cauſed that day to be put forth of the Calender. So that day when thou ſhalt haue but a thought of tormenting thy poore brother, do but looke into thy owne Conſcience, and it will make thee repent that euer thou haſt liued ſuch a day wherein thou haſt plaid the Tyrant in thy heart. The rockes haue yeelded reliefe to men oppreſt, but thou more harder then they, art the cauſe of their miſery. Be thou as great a tyrant ouer thy poore Debtor as *Nero* was to Rome, as cruell as *Phalaris*, as inhumane

as *Lycaon*, and in the end thou doſt with theſe get a ſtaffe to breake thy owne head, and lay a ſnare which thou thy ſelfe ſhalt fall into, for though thy owne perſon eſcape, yet thy poſterity ſhall be ſure to feele the punſhment.

Thou that vaunteſt, and wilt make dice of thy debters bones: be theſe the words of a man? No, of a monſter; no, but a Diuell; nay worſe then a Diuell, a thing not worthy name: for theſe words thou art as infamous, as the Iewes hatefull for caſting of dice for our Lords garment, that garment was but a ſenſeleſſe thing, but thou caſts dice for a piece of thy Redeemers body.

Thou takeſt with one clap of a Varlets hand, from the Courtier his honor, from the Lawyer his tongue, from the Merchant the Seas, from the Citizen his credit, from the Scholler his preferment, from the Husbandman the earth it ſelfe, and from all men (as much as thou maiſt) the brightneſſe and warmth of the Sunne of heauen. In a word, if nothing will make thy ſtony heart relent, thou in being cruell to thy debter art worſe then the hang-man; hee before he ſtrikes begs pardon, thou takeſt a pride to condemne where thou maiſt ſaue.

But it may be thy eſtate is ſicke, thy credit much ingaged, and to ſaue thy ſelfe thou art forced to doe this.

In ſo doing thou doeſt well, if another weare thy coate, and thou goeſt cold, thou maiſt plucke it from his ſhoulders. If thou art hungry and another keepes thy meate, thou maiſt take it off his Table: if hee be

able

able to cure thy wound, which for his ſake thou haſt made, thou haſt reaſon to ſeeke thy remedy; but if he which hath borrowed thy coate hath worne it out, and hath not a ragge to couer him with, wilt thou trample vpon his naked body? If with the Iew of Malta in ſtead of coyne thou requireſt a pound of fleſh next to thy debters heart, wilt thou cut him in pieces? If thy debter offer thee his bed hee lyes in, his chamber hee ſleepes in, his diſh hee drinkes in; nay, all that hee hath, ſo that he leaues himſelfe, wife and children as naked as they came into the world, wilt thou for all this ſuffer him to lye in priſon? If thou be mercifull to thy debter that cannot pay thee, alas, what is it? No more then if thou ſhouldeſt lift vp the head of a ſicke man vpon his pillow to eaſe him, he may recouer and doe as much for thee. In priſon pouerty is made beggery, and ſo thereby thou doſt not onely vndoe thy debter, but looſe all, therefore be mercifull and pittifull, and thou ſhalt not loſe thy reward.

*Lycurgus* being askt why hee made no Law for parricides, he anſwered, becauſe he thought there were none ſo vnnaturall: ſo if I ſhould haue ſtudied all the dayes of my life, and that my yeares ſhould be doubled, I ſhould neuer haue imagined either to haue inuented, or to haue beene an eye-witneſſe of ſuch vnnaturalneſſe as is here exemplary; as the Sonne who being bound for his Father, to free himſelfe hath laid his Father vp in cloſe priſon, and here hath detayned him ſeauen yeares, neuer yeelding to any compoſition, but his poore father liues at his mercileſſe Parricides,

mercy: and againe, the father ſuffers his ſonne to be impriſoned for his owne debt at his owne ſuite; ſurely a thing ſo abhord, that I tremble to write it, and none can reade it without bluſhing.

What will this world come to, when the Mammon of this world ſhall ſet father againſt ſonne, ſonne againſt father, and make them more mercileſſe then *Tygers*, and more vnnaturall then beaſts: for a beaſt forſakes not his own, but man reſpecteth gold before his friend, and the father coyne before the ſonne of his body, fleſh of his fleſh. And the ſonne, the God of this world before his father, which gaue him life and being, whom hee ought to cheriſh, and vndergoe all troubles to eaſe him. But looke to it both fathers and children, leaſt in a moment the iuſt iudgement of God fal vpon you, and damne you and your gold together, louing it better then thoſe whom you ought to cheriſh, and the one to bee but a thing of the baſeſt eſteeme, in reſpect of the other. I could exemplifie it with hiſtories as well forraine as domeſtique but that it is not my purpoſe, for *Ex paucis plurima concipit ingenium.*

*Ex paucis diſſis plurima intendere poſſes.*

## *The Character of a Creditor.*

A Creditor is a man whoſe eſtate is wrapped vp in Sheep-skins, his riſing growes by his debtors fall, his credit relies vpon his Debtors performance, and the death of a young Gallants father, is more pleaſing to him then faſting dayes to an Vſurer, or death to a Broker, hee growes rich onely by putting forth

forth commodities, which immediately conuerts to diſcommodities, hee will not put out money for ten in the hundred, for Vſury is hatefull to him, but hee loues extortion and makes that his *ſummum bonum*, for hee will Marchandize with you whereby hee will gaine ſixty in a hundred, hee is your Cities honeſt man, which is, to ſpeak the truth, more then a knaue, for a knaue that is crafty needes no Broker, but hee cannot liue without one. Hee is a man compoſed of all loue, and proteſting kindneſſe to pleaſure the occaſions of his gallant Debtor, with his much affirmation of his reſpect, how willing hee is to doe his worſhip a pleaſure, whereby the chiefe ayme of his pleaſure is to haue a footing vpon ſome capitall meſſuage, or elſe to bee fingring ſome petty Lordſhip, or comely Mannor, who hauing no ſooner glutted himſelfe with the rich Banquet of his Debtors deere coſt, but immediately to Phiſicke himſelfe, hee is at the charge of a faire hackney Coach with three moſt abſolute Iades to draw him (whither he moſt willingly is drawne) with his curious wife and two or three of his owne conditioned neighbours, to ſee this goodly purchaſe, who prepare themſelues ſome fortnight before hand, and prune themſelues vppe in their Peacocks feathers, like the puppets in a Lord Mayors pageant, and for this his great act hee is admired at amongſt his neighbours, as the Owle in the day time amongſt other birds, and eſteemed of with as much reſpect as that Captaine *Pigmi* was, which was Commander in that bloody warres againſt the terrible black Crowes.

*Similis ſimili gaudet.*

A *Creditor* may further be said to be either, *homo*, *monstrum*, or *Dæmon*. A man, when hee casts his Debtor into Prison with a determination to seeke his owne, not to ruine him, and if he bee not able to pay all, to take what hee can spare, and giue him day for the rest, and so release him: this man is (*homo homini Deus*) that as he doth punish so he doth preserue.

A Monster, when hee hath not onely extended his substance, but casts him in prison, and is as deafe as an adder to heare of release till hee haue paid him the vttermost farthing.

A Diuell, when he hath ruined him doth reioyce to see him fall, and in stead of coyne will haue his carkasse: But to find a Creditor both *Homo & Angelus*, that will release his prisoner when he is not able to pay him, and that will consider, that *vltra posse non est esse*. Such a one is, *Rara auis in terris, &c.*

*Of choyce of company in Prison.*

WOuldest thou learne to dispute well? Bee an excellent Sophister. Wouldst thou dispute of forraigne affaires, and bee an excellent Linguist? I counsell thee to trauell. Wouldst thou bee of a pleasing and affectionate behauiour? Frequent the Court. Wouldst thou diue into the secret villanies of man? Lye in prison.

*Via periculosa.* Take heed when thou entrest into this wilderneſſe of wilde beasts, what path thou takest, some guide is necessary, or else vnawares thou wilt with the Romane Emperours Steward fal into a pit, where cruel deuouring

deuouring Beaſts are intrapped, which will ruine thee.

Society is the ſtring at which the life of man hangeth, without which is no muſicke, two in this Maske is but a vnion, *Adam* had his *Eue*, and euery ſonne of *Adam* hath his brother whom he loues.

No Chariot runs with one wheele, two makes it ſteddy, a third is ſuperfluous, foure too cumberſome: thou muſt chooſe one and but one, who walkes alone is lame.

Men of all conditions are forced into Priſon, as all Riuers run into the Sea, therefore it is good to bee familiar with all, acquainted with few, and if with any, *eandem cant ilenam cano*, but with one, make triall what the veſſell will hold, before thou powre thy ſelfe into him; and be wary what thou ſayeſt or doeſt, for thou ſhalt haue the eyes of enuy, not of reproofe, which will looke vpon thee, to malice thee if thou doeſt well, and if thou deny to follow them in their humors, and to dance after their owne pipe, thou ſhalt bee more emulated then the boy was of the two Ladies when he preferred *Venus* before in giuing her the golden Ball; and if by accident thou doſt any thing amiſſe as, *humanum eſt errare*, thou ſhalt bee more vilified, and with inueterate mallice more proſecuted to diſgrace thee, then the Pariſiens did the Hugonites.

Bee wary therefore of thy company, for to bee a bowle for euery Alley, and run into euery company, proues thy mind to haue no bias.

Thy comming into Priſon, is like a Traueller com-

ming into strange Countries, who takes vp seuerall lodgings, hath many welcomes, but they are not to him, but to his money.

If thou wilt dwell with thy selfe, bee not giddy, but composed, for hee that is euery where is no where, therefore bee wary whom thou selectest, for heere bee of all sorts, for thou shalt as well find a flattering *Gnatho*, as a dissembling *Sinon*, and if thou haue store of crownes then shalt thou bee sure to bee humored and be beloued with outward respects, and then they will counsell and aduise thee, with protestations of their loue, but looke to such, whose counsell to heare and not imbrace will not hurt, but may much improue thee; but if once taken it will operate as the apple which *Valentine* Dutchesse of Orleans cast to the young Princes, which once tasted, will so poyson thee with corruption that thou art vncurable.

Further, heere bee vaine-glorious and talkatiue-headed fooles, such will more trouble thee then any action of debt which is laid on thee: heere bee common drunkards, which lie heauier on thee then an execution.

But if thou suffer a man to lye long in thy bosome, albeit his conditions bee full of flawes, yet labour to peece and seame vp his vices, rather then to cast him off, least that it call thine owne iudgement in question.

*Humanum est errare.*

All men haue imperfections, and being in Prison wee must not look to haue them starres, this place is no *Orbe* for such constellations,

Let not thy companion be a miſerable baſe-minded fellow, for then niggardlineſſe will hold her fingers on thy purſe ſtrings, let him not be a Prodigall, for then he will draw thee to riot, if adulterer to luſt, if a ſwearer to damned oaths, if a pot companion to drunkenneſſe, acquaint thy ſelfe therefore not with the moſt but beſt, not the beſt in cloaths or money, but in vertue, if there bee none ſuch in Priſon, then keepe company with thy ſelfe, in thy Chamber keep company with *Plutarke* and *Seneca*, *Perkins* and *Greenham*, the one will teach thee to liue well, the other to dye well.

*Diuitiæ faciunt homines potentiores non meliores.*

*Cum bonis bonus.*

## *The Character of Companions in Priſon.*

*Quot homines tot ſententiæ.*

ALL Companies are not alike, neither is there an vnion in their diſpoſitions. I will therfore touch but three kinds of perſons which thou ſhalt bee ſure to find in priſon. *viz*,

1 *A Paraſite.*
2 *A Iohn indifferent.*
3 *A true harted Titus.*

The firſt loueth thee better for thy meanes then merit, thy ſubſtance then thy ſelfe, who will rip open thy boſome to thy enemie, and when thy money begins to ſinke, will flye from thee, and will bee the firſt that will diſgrace thee. He is like a whore, who will no longer faune then thou wilt feed him. He is a trencher raſcall, which will more hate thee when thou leaueſt to releeue him, then euer hee did ſeeme to loue thee.

The ſecond is one that will flatter thee, and will neither abſolutely loue thee nor hate thee, but when preſent will bee with thee, when abſent againſt thee, hee is *hic et vbique*, heere and euery where, and in very truth hee is no where.

The laſt of theſe thou maiſt call the maſculine ſweet heart, which may be reſembled to truth, whoſe boſome is alwayes bare, and hath a breaſt of Chryſtall, that thou maiſt looke through his body to his heart; hee is one that will loue thee in aduerſitie, he will reſpect thee in the kitchin as well as in the parlour, hee will reuerence thee in the Hole as well as in the Maſters ſide, hee will looke on thee in rags as well as in robes, and will acknowledge thee in fetters as well as in a feather-bed: come ſtormes, come calmes, come tempeſts, come Sun-ſhine, come what can come, he will be thine and ſticke to thee.

*Verus amicus optimus theſaurus.*

## *Of Viſitants in Priſon.*

*Nullus ad amiſſas ibit amicus opes.*

FRom a ruinous houſe euery man flyes: they that are abroad aske euery day how thou doeſt, when in priſon they proteſt they are ſorry for thy misfortunes, but neuer come to thee: ſuch are like idle paſſengers preſſing about a Barbers ſhop when a man is carryed in wounded, who will peepe in and climbe about the windowes, but dare not enter into the ſhop for feare they ſhould fall into a ſwoond to ſee him dreſt. A priſoner is as much beholding to ſuch leape-frogge acquaintance, as a man ſhaken with an Ague

to euery goſſipping woman hee meetes, who will teach him an hundred medicines, and not one worth taking.

But if thy abilitie be ſuch that thou worke ſt thy liberrie, then thou ſhalt haue as many hands imbracing thee as *Centimanus* had, much wine with little loue beſtowed vpon thee, with oaths infinite, that they were comming forty times to ſee thee, but this or that occaſion hindred them, when indeed they were afraid thou ſhouldeſt haue had occaſion to vſe them: and they had purpoſed to haue come this day, but they are happy that thy ſo much deſired liberty hath preuented them, to ſuch giue no credit, onely ſalute them with a *Salue* and a *Vale*.

Others will come to thee with weeping and ſighing to cheare thee vp, ſuch are like Robin-redbreaſts that bring ſtrawes in their charitable bils to couer the dead.

Others will promiſe to lend thee money, but try them before thou haue occaſion to vſe them, which if they deny thee when thou art at liberty, be then vnto them as a ſhadow. But true friends in a priſon are like ſtrawberries in a barren country, that one can hardly get a handfull of them in a whole yeare; nay, they are like your Roſes here in Chriſtmas, a thouſand to one if in an age one be found, ſo in priſon it is a great odds, if of a thouſand kinſmen, allies, and acquaintance I finde but one true friend.

*Donec eris fælix multos numerabis amicos,*
*Tempora ſi fuerint nubila, ſolus eris.*

But if in this great dearth of friends wherein wee

liue, vnder what fortunate Planet may I iudge my selfe to be borne, and that the Constellations of the starres haue much fauoured mee, that amongst all my flesh and blood I haue found one true *Damon* or faithfull *Pylades*, and amongst all my acquaintance haue found some faithfull, and more constant in their loue and respect to me in this place, then when I was at liberty they did make shew of: Such Masts that so saue me in such wracks, I must euer loue; with such Dolphins in all my dangers, let me euer meete.

## *The Character of Visitants.*

VIsitants are men for the most part composed all of protesting promises, and little or no performance, they are like your Almanacks, which when they prognosticate faire weather, it is a million to a mite if it proue not contrary: they are like the German clocks which seldome goe right, their tongues run faster then the clocke on Shroue-tuesday, the pissing Conduit in cheapside, or an Irish mans paire of heeles when hee runnes on a wager. They will tyre thine eares more in one howre with their loud protestations, then a Scholler, Citizen or Taylor will a hackney horse in halfe a dayes riding, but in performance will bee as slow as a Snayle in her pace, and when thy messenger comes to them for money, then they will bee sure to haue the Strangullion, or Cholick that they cannot speake, and looke as rustily on thy messenger, as a Lawyer will on his clyent which sueth vnder *forma pauperis*, your letters as acceptable

ceptable as water into a Shippe, the Kings priuie ſeale to an Vſurer, a Subpœna to a Country Gentleman, or a Catch pole amongſt the friendly ſociety of Gallants.

They are like the rings and chaines bought at S. Martines, that weare faire for a little time, but ſhortly after will proue Alchimy, or rather pure Copper.

Laſtly, they are like the Apples which grow on the Bankes of *Gomorrah*, they haue crimſon and beautifull rindes, but when they come to gather them they crumble all to duſt.

## *Of Entertainment in Priſon.*

AS ſoone as thou commeſt before the gate of the Priſon, doe but thinke thou art entring into Hell, and it will extenuate ſomewhat of thy miſery, for thou ſhalt be ſure not only to find hell, but fiends and vgly monſters, which with continuall torments will afflict thee, for at the gate there ſtands *Cerberus*, a man in ſhew, but a dogge in nature, who at thy entrance will fawne vpon thee, bidding thee welcome in reſpect of the golden cruſt which hee muſt haue caſt him, then hee opens the doore with all gentlenes, ſhewing thee the way to miſery is very facile, and being once in, hee ſhuts it with ſuch fury, that it makes the foundation ſhake and the doore and windowes ſo barricadoed, that a man ſo looſeth himſelfe with admiration that hee can hardly finde the way out and be a ſound man. Now for the moſt part your Porter is either ſome broken Cittizen, who

hath

hath plaid Iack of all trades, ſome Pander, Broker or Hangman, that hath plaid the knaue with all men, and for the more certainty his Embleme is a red Beard, to which Sacke hath made his Noſe couſin German.

No ſooner ſhall a man paſſe this fury, but hee is conducted to little eaſe his chamber, where hee no ſooner hath entred, but (hard vſage) his chamberlaine ſalutes him, and proteſts hee hath lodged thee with as honeſt a man as himſelfe, when as in truth a paire of Sheres cannot part the knaue betwixt them, and proteſteth thou ſhalt haue a cleane paire of ſheetes, and of the beſt, who hauing no ſooner fingred thy coyne, but ſends thee a paire of ſheets, fitter for a horſe then a man, who hauing plaid the Iade ſo with thee, then leaues thee. Hee no ſooner departs, but thredbare and monileſſe thy chamberfellowes, come vpon thee for a Garniſh, which if thou deny them or haſt no money, then *Exit* cloake from thy ſhoulders, and enter two douſen of pots, and one douſen of pipes, this is the pillow which ſhall be giuen thee to ſleepe on the firſt night: now thou muſt bee ſaluted in the morning, or elſe peraduenture thou wilt thinke thy ſelfe not welcome.

In the morning at thy vpriſing, (*Pothearbe*) the Gardiner appeares in his likeneſſe and hee will haue *vnguentum aureum*, for the narrow path thou haſt to walke in.

Then to whet on thy ſtomach to dinner comes (*Cut-throat*) the Steward for his crowne, who profeſſeth much kindneſſe hee will ſhew thee, for thou haſt

haſt bound him with thy courteſie, to couſen thee, not onely in thy meat but money.

Next after this comes (Miſtreſſe *Mutton-chops*,) the head Cooke, who proteſteth thou ſhalt command her, who hauing no ſooner greaſed her fingers with thy ſiluer, but euer after ſhee will haue a hand in thy diſh, doe what thou canſt to preuent it, ſo on all ſides the blood of thy purſe muſt bee poured out to maintaine ſuch mercileſſe Blood-hounds, and continuall purſe-leaches.

Theſe Furies, as they haue diuers ſhapes, ſo haue they ſeuerall kindes of temptations, for after thou haſt beene ſome fortnight in Priſon, they will come to thee to cheere thee, leaſt thou ſhouldſt adde melancholly to diſcontentment, and will tell thee they wiſh thee well, and thou ſhalt command them, and in their opinion the ſight of the Street will much content thee, and they will attend thee to the Tauerne within the rule, where thou muſt quench their thirſt with Sacke, and what is got of thee is well got being obtained by rule, for he that liues by rule cannot erre.

Suppoſe thou either perceiueſt theſe things by others, or by thy owne experience, and ſo refuſe this profered curteſie of theirs, purchaſed for their pleaſures at thy owne coſt. Then if at any time vpon iuſt occaſion thou deſireſt it, thou muſt giue them a Cup of *aurum potabile*, or elſe expect not the leaſt fauour or ſmalleſt courteſie, for no penny no Pater-noſter, no gold no friendſhip.

If thou continually be offered iniuries beare them

patiently, or elſe thou ſhalt be laid in Irons for ſatiſfaction.

If they perceiue thou art like to continue and haſt good meanes, thou ſhalt want no content that priſon can yeeld, but euery dram of content will coſt thee a pound of ſiluer.

When they heare thou art vpon diſcharge, then will they bee very ſorry and make all the beſt meanes that poſſibly they can to detaine thee, but if there be no remedy but thou muſt needs depart, then what with their three halfe pence a pound for Action money, and three in the pound for Execution, they will make ſuch a large bill which will be more vnconſcionable then a Taylors, for hee will abate of the *Summa totalis*, but in this heere is nothing to bee abated, all their ſpeech is *legem pone*, or elſe with their ill cuſtome they will detaine thee, for thy denyall is an execution without triall by law, for notwithſtanding that amongſt iuſt men, *malus vſus abolendus eſt*, heere *conſeruandus et preſeruandus*, and ſo the entrance into priſon, the continuance in priſon, and and the diſcharge out of Priſon, will be nothing but racking the heartſtrings of poore priſoners, and exhauſting the ſubſtance of the diſtreſſed, whatſoeuer their wants be, holding it for a maxime, that *Summa iniuria eſt ſummum ius.*

*Of Keepers which goe abroad with Prisoners.*

HAst thou a desire to goe abroad, thy *Argos* which attends thee, will bee more chargeable then the Lord Mayors gally foist on *Simon* and *Iudes* day, or a Cittizens wife to her husband when strawberries and Cherries are first cryed in the Streets, and will consume thee if thou forbeare not, thou maist better cheape ride on thy foot-cloth, then go abroad with thy keeper. 4. Shillings *per diem cũ Cerere & Baccho.*

If thou walkest abroad with thy Keeper, vse him friendly, but not respectiuely, so manage him that he shall rather thinke himselfe beholding to thee then thou to him, for howsoeuer he faunes vpon thee with complements, standing bare with officious attendance; yet know, he serues in his place but as the Dog the Butcher, he is to thee as a cur to a droue of beasts, if thou goest on quietly (be it to thy slaughter among griping Cittizens, and cruell Creditors to worke thy owne freedome) hee waites gently and brings thee to the doore, but if thou once offer to stray hee worries thee.

Remember his eye shootes at two whites, thy person and thy purse, the one is to guard thee, the other to feed him, thou art compelled to protect thy Carkase vnder his shelter as a sheepe in a terrible storme vnder a bryer, and be sure thy standing there is to haue some of thy woll torne off.

### *The Character of Keepers.*

YOur Keepers moſt commonly are infinuating knaues, and mercinary raſcals, wearing their Maiſters liuery, but their owne badge, which is ſlaue: in full proportion they looke like the picture of enuy, with their hands continually diuing into poore Priſoners pockets, with their heads vncouered, ſtill profering courteſies when their harts make anſwer what kindnes they doe is (*non tibi ſed pecuniæ*) they moſt commonly feed well to their Maiſters credit, but the tablers charge. Now if any take exception of the badge knaue which I haue giuen them, as the old prouerbe is, touch a gald horſe and he will kicke. I will maintaine what I ſay out of their owne authors, a bird of their own neſt yet not altogether ſo ill, who ſaid to me that he was weary of his ſlauiſh life, in reſpect he muſt bee knaue in his place, who ſaid, if hee were true to his Maiſter, hee muſt bee knaue to priſoners, if true to priſoners, knaue to his Maiſter. So be hee honeſt in his vocation or diſhoneſt, he muſt bee ſtill knaue; for *mala mens malus animus.*

There are aboundance of theſe ſnakes which lie lurking in this place, whoſe chiefeſt felicity is to talke of ſo many new priſoners which are committed, and are ready to faint if they but heare of releaſe, and all the dogges at Paris-garden keep not ſuch a bawling as theſe curres euery morning in the Tearme, to goe abroad with poore priſoners by rule, onely to prey and ſeize vpon their coyne, and they will not abate

one

one penny of their extortion, though the poore priſoner faſt a week with bread and water. And they reioyce more for a *habeas corpus* in the vacation, then the huſbandman for a plentifull harueſt, or the Merchant for the ſafe landing of his Ship.

For money, they will doe any thing, bee it neuer ſo ill, ſo thereby they may purchaſe coyne, holding it a *maxime*, that ſiluer is well gotten if by any means obtained, and to vſe cruelty to Priſoners is policy and wiſedome; becauſe now is the time or neuer, for being once infranchiſed, they will bee as wary to come in againe as the bird which hath eſcaped the Foulers net.

## *Eſſayes and Characters of Iaylors and Keepers of Priſons.*

THeſe are *diuerſa* but not *contraria*, they are all one in nature, in place onely they differ, (*nomine tantum*) the Keeper is the roote, body and bulke of the tree, the Iaylors are but branches, ſome ſlip off by loſſe of a priſoner, by being giuen to drunkennes or whoring, (adiuncts inſeperable to them) or by any other debauchednes, at the pleaſure of their commander.

The Maiſter of a Priſon is the *primum mobile*, in that euerlaſting motion (a Iayle) and thoſe key-turners, and ſtreet-walkers, are the petty and neceſſary ſlauiſh wheeles, which runne like horſes in Milles continually; by day with their feete, quicke eyes, and obſeruing faces, by night with their feares,

that doore ſhould flye open, and priſoners eſcape.

Many men (borne well, of gentle blood, and extraordinary education) forſake the calmes of their owne happy fortunes, to arriue on theſe quickſanded Shores and either by ſtrength of purſe, or free gift of great perſons, haue ſuch places of command conferd vpon them (I ſpeake heere of the better ſort which are the Maiſters) yet I know not whether the peruerſe vnrulines of Priſoners, with whom they are to wraſtle, or whether the fate of ſuch Star-croſt houſes, or what other maleuolent aſpect ſticks vpon them; I know not I ſay, whether one of theſe ſingle, or all of them together, alter ſoft and noble inclinations into cruell and crooked ones, neither is my complaint or condemnation of them generall, for I know ſome of this File, may and doe march in the rankes of men both worthy, and full of commiſſeration towards thoſe poore people vnder their charge.

But for the ſecond ſort, which properly are Iaylors indeed, they are commonly either baſe tradeſmen that haue broken, and by a little mony pared off from other mens goods, buy ſuch offices; els are they lazy Seruing-men, who beeing weary of carrying the Cloake bagge, thinke it a braue life to come and command as good and ſometimes better men then their Maiſters, within the ſtinking precincts of a priſon: or take the beſt choyce you can, they are but out-worne Soldiers, but indeed for the moſt part the very off-ſcum of the raſcall multitude, as Cabbage-carriers, Decoyes, Bum-bayliffes, diſgaced Purſeuants,

uants, Botchers, Chandlers, and a rabble of ſuch ſtinkardly companions, with whom no man of any reaſonable faſhion, but would ſcorne to conuerſe: but in theſe infortunate caues of miſery, where priſoners are tyed vp like dogges, and theſe are the Beare-wards, that hold no life ſweeter then to inſult ouer their betters.

Theſe are *Niobes*, children turned into ſtones, theſe are double tongu'd monſters who fawne vpon priſoners with flattering ſpeeches, and behinde their backs cut their throates to their maſter.

Nay, theſe turne-coates take off the very nop of their maſters gentle diſpoſition; and when they heare him promiſe to a Gentleman any fauour of going abroad, or ſpeaking to a Creditor in his behalfe, one of theſe Furies (bearing ſome ſecret ſpight) drawes bloud of the priſoner, by poiſoning the Maſters good intention, ſo that hee croſſing ouer the water, or walking ſcarce to the Croſſe in Cheape from the Compter, or from the Fleete ſo farre as to one of the Cookes Shops in the Lane, there drownes the vow of any promiſe.

Nay ſuch opinion puts hee in theſe flattering Spaniels, and inſinuating Peſants, that the baſeſt report and palpableſt lye of them ſhall bee ſooner credited then any oath or conteſtation of the worthieſt Gentleman, making confrontion againſt them.

Porters in priſons haue in theſe cloſe fights terrible teeth, and are good Bloud-hounds, or rather mercileſſe bloud-ſuckers.

What-

Whatſoeuer they whiſper in the Maſters eare is to him a *Credo.*

*Hinc ille lachryme.*

This is the gall which ſo many noble ſpirits being forced to drinke downe, doe ſo complaine againſt the cruelty of their keepers, neyther are their tyrannies of one nature, but their whips haue ſeuerall knots, and euery knot a ſeuerall ſmarting.

A Broker takes forty in the hundred and is called vnconſcionable diuell for it, but theſe men thinke they may (without danger to their ſoules) wring fifty pounds *per annum*, (out of priſoners afflictions and vtterly vndone eſtates) for one naſty Chamber, hung with Cobweb-lawne for the greater grace, and haunted with Lice and Rats for want of better company.

A Scriuener is reputed mercileſſe in taking the forfeyture of a band, but theſe men haue with *Iudas* for thirty pence taken the forfeyture of a Priſoners life, for the want of ſo much money to diſcharge him, ſuffering him to dye in Priſon.

A rich Farmer is eſteemed moſt inhumane, and no Chriſtian, to take but the houſe or tenement ouer the head of a poore tenant then reſident in it: but theſe make it nothing to take diuers lodgings from a Common Gayle which belonged for the eaſe and relieſe of diuers poore priſoners to conuert them to the Maiſters ſide, and the benefit redownding to their owne purſes, which is at the leaſt 100. pound *per annum.*

Againe are all thy actions diſcharged, and is there any hope that thou ſhalt haue any fortunes abroad,

or

or that thou haſt good friends to maintaine thee in Priſon, bee ſure then that vpon thy going out thou ſhalt bee put backe, (when all fees are paid) though thy very foote ſtand on the threſhold, if knaues and Varlets, Clarkes and Catch-poles, can by trotting vp and downe to any man to whom thou oweſt money, finde any Springe to catch thee in like a Wood-cocke.

And albeit thou art as free from any debts, as when thou wert borne, yet rather then faile, actions ſhall bee entred vpon thee in a name thou knoweſt not, neuer hadſt to deale with, or neuer heardeſt of: Great pitty that the reuerend Iudges of our Land haue not eyes to look through the very heart of ſuch villanies, or are not certified of the miſerable dealing and cruell extortion continually offered to Priſoners, to eaſe them, as they are both able and haue ready hands to puniſh them.

Shall I adde this one thing more, which I doe with a compatible commiſſeration of thoſe, who I know lye groaning vnder it: Is thy Creditors heart ſoftened ſo gently, that hee hath compounded with thee for all the money thou oweſt him, yet comming to take leaue with thy Keeper, thou art thruſt back into a worſe Priſon then before; a booke of charges lies open before thee, and neither Vinteners nor Taylors billes are ſo terrible as the *Items* of the houſe nor perhaps ſo vnconſcionable, beſides all vnreaſonablenes to giue three pence in the pound for execution money, and three halfepeence for action, which many times ariſe to as much as a twelue-months expences.

Offer good mens bonds, offer lands, offer plate, offer any paune whatſoeuer,

*Ibis, redibis nunquam, in Bello peribis.*

Backe muſt thou goe, to the place from whence thou art ſo deſirous to come, and in that conflict betweene thy owne wants and thy Keepers cruelty, periſh vnleſſe thou payeſt the vttermoſt penny: neither the language of intreaties, the promiſes of friends, the reſpect of any of the excellent parts in thee, whatſoeuer they bee, nor any other motiue (but Money) can preuaile in the wonderfull miracle of thy liberty.

*Pecunia omnia paret.*

## *Of mercileſſe Iaylors.*

ENough is ſpoken in the Eſſay going before, yet too much being too little, with often inculcation, into eares ſo deafe from being penetrated.

A voyce lowd as thunder had need to roare and to awaken them. One Venny more, and if that hit, ſo, if not (but if their hearts are not to bee peirced,) I will lay downe the Bucklers, and ſuffer them to take them vp, yet fall back, fall edge, thus trauerſe wee our ground.

I loue to ſee a Mother hugge her Infant, or a Father ſtroake his Sonne on the head, theſe are bonds in nature, ſo ſtrangely and ſtrongly ſealed, that to infringe them violates the very lawes of heauen: but when I ſee man exerciſe wilful tirranny vpon man it is as if the Stars ſhould in enuy burne one another

to

to extinguiſh one anothers light, and ſo confound that Spheare in malicious darkenes.

Barbarous cruelty is a Belluine quality: Tygers, Panthers, Beares, and Bandogs haue it by naturall inclination, it is no ſhame for them, it is in them a baſenes if they degenerate to mildneſſe, and looſe their courages: they haue mouths, iawes, teeth, pawes and limbes, proportionable to their ſauage diſpoſition.

But Man is borne weake, gentle, vnapt to do hurt, vnable to offer violence, and to fall from that goodnes is to fall with the Angells, how much then doe they derogate from their noble Creation, who turne the ſharpneſſe of their nailes which God armes them with for their own beauty and defence, to draw blood vpon the boſomes of Chriſtians made like themſelues? Such are mercileſſe inexorable Iaylors, (I exempt thoſe tender hearted ones, which I neuer found other) but moſt certaine ſuch may bee found within a ſmall compaſſe, who vſe and exerciſe all cruelty.

Cruelty becomes them worſt of all men: a Priſoner is a poore weather-beaten Bird, who hauing loſt the Shoare, is driuen by tempeſt to hang vpon the ſailes and tacklings of a priſon: the Iaylor is the Saylor, and if hee beate that Bird off to ſinke her in the Seas, when by climbing vp to the Maine top, or perhaps by lifting vp his hand, hee may take it and lend it heat from his warme boſome, it is an argument that his heart is made of the ſame rocks, that lie in wait to deſtroy ſhips in the Ocean.

Pitty is a Godlike property, but hardnes of heart, ſelfe-willd tyranny, curriſh dealing, and imperious domineering ouer men deiected, argue baſe, ignoble, cowardly, and diuelliſh diſpoſitions.

It is a *Maxime* in the Schoole of valour, that no Coward can bee an honeſt man; what then are flint-breaſted Iaylors, who dare not ſtrike but when they ſee men lye fettered at their feet: So dead Lions may bee bitten and torne in pieces by Curres, which before durſt not quetch for terror of their pawes; ſo that hee who deſcends to that pouerty of minde, as to fat himſelfe by other mens miſery, can no longer write Man, but *Miſanthropos*, Man-hater, or rather *Anthropophagus*, Man-eater.

If remorceleſſe Keepers of Priſons, (for drawing now mine Arrow, beare witnes you who giue ayme, that I ſhoot at none) or if marble-hearted Iaylors were ſo hapleſſe happy as to bee miſtaken, and bee made Kings, they would inſtead of Iron to their grates haue barres made of mens ribbes, Death ſhould ſtand at doore for Porter, and the Diuell euery night come gingling of Keyes, and rapping at doors to lock men vp.

The ten-penny and nine-penny Ordinaries ſhould neuer bee more in the Fleet, Gate-houſe, or the two infernall Compters, for Hunger would lay the cloth, and Famine ſhould play the leane fac'd Seruingman to take away the trenchers.

*Neroes* cruelty in reſpect of theſe would be counted the peaceable Raigne of *Auguſtus Ceſar*, the perſecutions of the Romane Emperours vpon the Primitiue

mitiue Chriſtians ſhould be painted Tragedies to reall Maſſacres, compared to the inhumane bloodthirſty exerciſes which theſe Tyrants would put priſoners to, if they durſt doe, what they haue minde to doe.

*Ob.* It may happily bee thought that I am too bitter, and write vntruths out of a malicious pen.

*Reſ.* Let the world bee iudge: for when I ſee or heare that many noble braue and generous ſpirits, borne to great fortunes, well deſcended, of courages not to bee baffled, but by the arme of baſe fortune, and the inreſiſtable violence of Lawes fighting againſt them for debts: when I ſay, I ſee or heare that ſuch Gentlemen, vpon one afternoones going abroad, might free themſelues from bondage, and offer to goe pinyond, peraduenture with leaſhes of Keepers, and giuing beſides profferd ſecurity of worthy friends, oaths, faiths, honors and reputations of Gentlemen to come back ſafe, when an inflexible Iaylor can with a word let them goe, yet ſpitefully ſtops them: Oh miſery! what ſhall I ſpeake of this, on whom complaine? Are there no ſuch Keepers of Priſons in this Kingdome, then I doe none wrong.

But I will giue you the picture of one farre worſe, neither will I thereby infer all are faulty by one mans fault, God forbid; but thus I beſtow him vpon you.

There was liuing within leſſe then ſeauen yeares paſt in one of the petty priſons of this Land or not farre from it, a Iaylor, who hauing ſome poore men

vnder his cuſtody lying for debts, and wanting all releeſe of friends, dwelling (as Charity does ſtill) many miles out of the way, was ſo vnmercifull to them, that they hauing but little money, were glad to buy of him the liuers of Bullocks, which hee begged of Butchers for a dogge that hee kept, and to pay a halfe penny for a quart of water. But what became of this Monſter, hee went one euening in perfect health to bed, at midnight, ſtarted vp roaring and rauing, and crying out the Chamber was all on fire, and the Deuill at his bed ſide catching at him, and ſo dyed in deſperation. His Wife after his death keeping the ſame Iayle, fell ſodainly extreame poore, and his Children doe at this houre goe a begging, for *qualis vita finis ita.* Neuer was it heard that any hard hearted Iaylor did dye rich, or if hee did, yet curſes followed him to his graue, infamy ſate euer vpon it, his end was wretched, his wealth melted to nothing, his family hath not proſpered, his wife and poſterity haue beene beggars, and hee that exhauſteth a heape of riches out of the blood of priſoners, hath Gods mercie drawne away from him: I write this not to defame the good but to reclaime the bad.

*De male quæſitis non gaudet tertius hæres.*

## *Of the miſerable life in Priſon.*

TO bee a ſlaue to a Turke is not ſo much, becauſe hee is a Turke, a monſter whoſe teeth are ſharpned of purpoſe, (by diuine ſufferance) to bite and draw blood: A Bulls pizle is as proper to his hand, as a turbant to his head.

Cruelty

Cruelty is a Genuine quality, but for a Chriſtian to bee ſlaue to a Chriſtian, as a Priſoner is to an inſulting Iaylor, is as repugnant to nature as for an elder brother to eat ſcraps from a younger brothers trencher.

The bondage is doubled in the baſeneſſe of thoſe petty inſolent rake-hells, vnder whom the Priſoner with a patience perforce ſuffers. For hee is a ſlaue in the eye of all freedome, fettered in the lap of his mother (his Country) and what miſery can bee greater then to ſee ſhore and yet be caſt away.

To a free borne generous ſpirit no Iewells are halfe ſo precious as his natiue liberty, gold to that as durt, and albeit with a maſculine courage he indures the braues of pefants when his body is confined, yet the nobility of his mind indures ſuch wounds, as a woman in labor doth her throwes, the ſtroakes of death are eaſie to her paſſions.

Some cannot belieue, that ſo baſe a Creature as a Bandog dare ſet vpon the Lyon, but freſh experience teaches vs the contrary, for that maieſticall Beaſt was not onely barked at, but bitten in his owne Lodging (the Tower) not many yeares paſt: So when thou art hurried through the Streets, in thy thundring Caroch, all eyes open vpon thee, Footmen running by thee, thy body gliſtring in gold, thy minde ſwelling with pride, thy bagges full, thy attendants many, all men ſtanding bare before thee at thy bed and board, how wouldeſt thou take it in ſcorne, if a wizzard (by the Almanack of thy riots, poynting to an ill fac'd Catchpole, Bayliffe, or Iaylor,

as

as hee paſſeth by that pompe) ſhould prognoſticate and ſay, one of yonder Maſtiffes ſhall one day teare thee, when thou ſhalt not dare to ſpurne him, woulſt thou beleeue this? Wouldſt thou thinke ſo poore a Snake durſt euer ſting thee? But when for heauy debts thou ſhalt bee toſſed from pen to pen, (of pleaders into a priſon, when hauing hardly wintered within that Garriſon of woe, thy face ſhall not be thine, but the picture of care and diſcontentment, when though thou ſlumbreſt. thy griefe ſhall ſtill lie awake, when thy Angells ſhall haue their wings clipt, and thy ſilkes be turned into courſe freeſe, then that Dogge whom thou ſcornedſt to haue kept thy Gate, ſhall in thy very Chamber ſnarle at thee, thy bread by his kneading ſhall bee full of grauell, and thou muſt eat it, thy drinke by his bitterneſſe turned into gall, yet thou muſt drinke it: thou ſhalt bee driuen to thy bed with as much loathing, as a wretch, that is to lye on a hurdle, and not ſuffered to riſe vntill his Iron hand plucke thee vp. So pent vp wilt thou bee from Ayre, that it ſhall almoſt make thee forget there is a Sunne in Heauen: where is the edge of thy courage now? how poorely is all thy former brauery attired? dares this Butchers Curre now faſten vpon the Lyon? yes hee ſhall, And therefore,

*Thus know him: If thou like not his harſh note,*
*He grumbles, barks, and ee'n to bite thy throat*
*Has heart (if hee durſt doot) becauſe has power.*
*As Lyons are lock'd vp within the Tower:*

So

*So heere great ſpirits are forc't to abide the braues,*
*Baſe checks and ſurly lookes of groomes and knaues.*
*Priſoners to Iaylors, vſe that wretched trade,*
*Of common fidlers; each one dare vpbraid*
*And call them baſe, what euer griefe or wrongs*
*Lye at their hearts, they muſt chant merry ſongs,*
*Like Birds in Cages, and are glad to ſing*
*Sweet tunes to thoſe, who them to thraldome bring,*
*Who goe at freedome, at theſe hells may gueſſe,*
*None know them right, but they whoſe Soules they preſſe.*

*A Locker vp at nights*

Is an *Ignis fatuus*, (or fire Drake) that glides from Roome to Roome, and frights euery priſoner vpon whom hee ſheds his light, if hee prayes well hee cannot bee a good Chriſtian, for hee is ſure to watch.

Hee might be a Soldier by his walking the round, but that the poore raſcall ſeldome or neuer goes with a *piece about him, his cloathes and hee are of one threed-bare wearing, and very hardly get a nap.

*Two & twenty Shillings.

Somtimes his eares are boxt for the glibnes of his tongue, and though euery night nothing bee giuen him, yet he is ſure to catch cold.

The Varlet is a rank begger, yet many Coxcombs thinke hee hath much in his keeping, becauſe hee is ſtill locking vp: the Belman of the Citty and he haue almoſt offices alike, yet heerein they differ, that the Belman hath his Dog following him, but this night-

walker growes into the habit of a Dog by his curriſhnes.

## *A noble vnderſtanding Priſoner*

IS a Booke ſo truely printed, that Fortune (with all her miſtakings) cannot find in him any *Errata*. He comes to Priſon, as a great Ship in a Storme, to ſhoare, ſhewing more noble Emblems of conſtant ſuffering, then the Seas could ſticke vpon it of their tiranny.

He beholds Iaylors as a valiant Soldier looks vpon his wounds, which (how dangerous ſoeuer) yet hee ſmiles vpon his Surgeon, and will indure dreſſing with an vndaunted countenance, becauſe he knowes it is to fetch him off from danger.

No *Iacobs*-ſtaffe can take the height of a Starre ſo truely, as his reſolution can both of his owne miſery and his Keepers cruelty: which albeit they moue in one Spheare, yet their motions are contrary; for the one turnes ſtill to his owne goodnes, and the other to his maiſters guilt and confuſion.

Hee is the Oyle which ſwims on the top of Affliction with courage, and cleerenes, that part which is downwards ſhines as brightly as that aboue, and no turbulence can make it ſinke to the bottome. Of all Geometricall figures, a circle is the moſt perfect, and the hardeſt propoſition is to bring it into a ſquare, for ſome ſmall fraction muſt bee ſtill left out: ſo it fares with this mans Dimenſions, addition

makes

makes him imperfect, and to caſt off any thing leaues him lame. *Ouids* Verſe and hee are one and the ſame, word nor ſillable are too much, nor too little; In briefe hee can (with Iudgement) know when to beat a ſaucy Iaylor, and when to haue him fawne and make a ſhillings-worth of legges.

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*Obſeruations of a Priſon.*

1. THe deareſt Meat in Priſon is a Tablers cheeſe, and his firſt welcome.

2. The cheapeſt Drinkes are Garniſhes, one pottle of that is worth ten which you ſhall pay for in any Tauerne about London: but it is far more pleaſant to drinke his part of ten in a Tauerne.

3. Hee that comes freſh into a Priſon, if hee flye into the Parlor for Victualls, is called a Woodcocke, if not thither but at randome, then a Snipe, howſoeuer you terme them, both are ſure to be caught, and to be put all into one Cage, the Woodcocke only is now and then a litttle finelier trimmed vp with green boughes, and reaſon, for the inferiour petty Iaylors hold him to be the better meate, and therefore neuer leaue feeding vpon him vntill they haue pickt him to the bare bones.

4. In Priſons Gentlemen and burſten Cittizens meet as vpon the Exchange, but the newes of both are not alike, for the Gentleman ſhall be ſure to heare of nothing but wracks, but the politique cheating

Bankrupt heares ſtill that his Ship comes home with rich lading, this is his ſafeſt landing place.

5. Fat mutton-Chops out of the Kitchin, make leane Commons in a Priſoners Chamber.

6. You ſhall ſee ſome in a Chamber, who hauing ſcarce cloaths to couer them with, yet fingring good ſtore of money, the pottle pot ſhall neuer ceaſe filling vntill the Hogs-head of their ſiluer bee cleane emptied, albe they waſh their dry mouths a fortnight after with ſmall beere. Such fellowes are like ſome ſcuruy players whoſe ambition is to play the greateſt parts, yet performing them ilfauordly are hiſt at for their labour.

7. A naſty ſtinking Lodging in a Iayle is ſweeter land any Garden houſe about *Bun-hill.*

8. A Tobacco Shop and a Baudy houſe, are in the Skirts of the Suburbs counted Inmates, but in a Priſon their Tenure is all one.

9. A Priſon is nothing elſe but a great Ale-houſe, for euery Chamber is nothing els but a continuall drinking roome.

10. *Adam* was driuen out of *Eden* for eating of a poore apple, and a Priſoner for want of ſixe pence ſhall be kept out of the Garden: Euery *Cerberus* muſt haue his ſoppe.

11. The Porters Lodge is a Martins neſt, a knaue Porters fauour is bought as men ſell deale bords (by the foot) ſo of him for a ſixepenny bribe thou ſhalt haue an inch of Liberty meaſured out by the Rule.

12. It is flowing water in a Priſon, when there is no roome in the Celler for a man to drinke a Cup of Beere

Beere in; ebbing water when *Iohn Batty* lits nodding for want of Company.

13. It is full Sea when three men are forced to lye thruſting in one bed.

14. A ſnorting bedfellow, is that great Organ pipe, whoſe baſe ſound ſets all the Quire a roaring.

15. The eaſieſt commodities to bee taken vp in a Priſon are ſmocks, but truſt no man with a Shirt, no though he be a Knight of *Malta*, S. *Iago*, *Santa Cruz*, or the *Sepulcher*, though he ſteale his band of tenne thouſand *Dam-mees*.

16. Many fine rings are to bee had in a Priſon, the mettall of them is right Touch, but moſt of the Stones are counterfeit.

17. The Sunne euery yeare paſſeth through the 12. Signes in the Zodiacke, and the ſame Signes ſerue as twelue houſes belonging to a Prnon.

1. The Signe is in *Aries* when a Country Ram and a Citty Goat meeting full But in a Priſon vpon going to Law one goares another.
2. In *Taurus*, when the poore debtor is toſſed vpon the hornes of his Aduerſaries malice, from the Country Iayle to London, firſt to the Kings Bench, and then to the Fleet.
3. In *Gemini*, when halfe the Priſon are drunke in couples, this is a hot Signe.
4. In *Cancer*, when a Priſoner ſcorning to greaſe the Groome Porter with oyle of ſiluer, requeſts to come into the Lodge or walke into the rule, but is forced (with a *Cancros imitere*) to goe backward.

5. In *Leo*, when there is a mutiny in the houſe, breaking open locks, & battering downe doors.
6. In *Virgo* when a pretty wench comes to haue her action entred in a cloſe Chamber.
7. In *Libra*, when the ſhauing Taylor and ſharking Creditor equally fleece the Priſoner, and turne him out like a new ſhorne Sheepe.
8. In *Scorpio*, when beds are louſie.
9. In *Sagitarius*, when a Tabler eating too deepe into ſcore, is ſhot from full platters, and feeds on two-penny chops and pottage.
10. In *Capricornus*, when a Priſoners Wife taking hold on times forelocke, giues her Huſband a Bugle hatband.
11. In *Aquarius*, when a Priſoner at his firſt comming into Priſon, giues ſixepence for an earthen piſſe-pot.
12. In *Piſces*, when he payes eightpence in the Kitchin for dreſſing a groats worth of fiſh.

18. Sure they are no Aldermen that ly in Priſon, for if you ſee foureſcore of them in one houſe, threeſcore and eighteene of thoſe haue giuen vp their Cloaks.

19. *Amſterdam* and a Iayle are peopled alike, Religion in both places goe antickely attired, for here whilſt ſome are buſie at a Sermon, others are as buſie at their halfe Cans, one man ſits bareheaded to heare Seruice, and the very next to him with his hat on ſtitching of Bodyes, one man with his Spectacles on reading the firſt Leſſon, another hard by him Sticking on the vpper ſoles of a payre of Shooes.

20. Priſoners in the Kings Bench Common Iayle, are

are able to doe good ſeruice both by Sea and Land, for ſome haue Cabins, but moſt of them keep horſes. *Their beds are called horſes.*

21. The Kings Guard are counted the ſtrongeſt Archers, but heere are better ſuitors.

22. A Whore entring into a Priſon is a Hony-pot about which all the flyes come buzzing, as Crowes to a Carrion.

23. The Leaſe of euery Priſon is forfeyted, if euery priſoner goe ſober to bed.

24. Some are of opinion that Engliſh priſons lock vp none but Engliſh men, but I ſay they are all Hungarians.

25. Execution of the law is a ſatisfaction to the law, all men therfore in execution, haue paid their debts.

26. They that being at liberty were euer held to ſpeake truth, are in a priſon horrible lyers.

27. Men ſtudy no game at Cards ſo much in Priſon as Maw.

28. To borrow money is called ſtriking, but the blow can hardly or neuer be recouered.

29. Euery Priſoner is a Piece, and no maruell if he breakes, being ſo greatly charged.

30. A Iaylor has a diuiliſh ſtomack, for he eats men.

31. *Stow* your own countryman, & writer of Chronicles, cannot be beleeued by many touching the remotion of Lands by Earthquakes, and yet to confirme him goe but to the Kings Bench, and it is a wonder if you find not *Hackley in the Hole* about the houſe, which yee all know was planted farther off, fame is as windy as any of the 4. quarters which trumpetting his iudgement in gouernment abroad hath com-

commended his aſſiſtance to this place, ſoldiers are ſomthing more exorbitant then Priſoners, and ſince he knew how to menace them, doubt not but he will quickly learne to manage vs. This is the greateſt vnlikelihood, yet heere it is ratified. What els ye ſhall heare both touching the place, the Perſons, and their hangers on, hang me if the tryall make you not ſay report hath beene too ſparing. I wiſh to euery man faith to beleeue all this, But deliuerance from taſting of the leaſt part that others ſuffer.

FINIS.

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